

verified only about 2,000 of the 15,000 businesses listed in the database. Therefore, I am delighted that Subcommittee Chairwoman HERSETH SANDLIN has clarified Congress' intent on having a business included only after verification of ownership and control as a means to prevent awarding contracts to businesses which are not veteran-owned.

With the implementation of the new Post 9/11 GI Bill, it is more important than ever to ensure VA receives up-to-date advice from schools and State Approving Agencies on issues related to veterans education. I congratulate Ms. KIRKPATRICK for extending the life of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Education through 2015.

I am also especially pleased with H.R. 3949's provisions that would strengthen protections for servicemembers under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, SCRA, by clarifying the rights and obligations of servicemembers and providers regarding service contracts for cell phone service, residential and automobile leases.

The bill also makes important changes to SCRA by codifying a servicemember's private right of action and authorizing the U.S. Attorney General to bring appropriate action in U.S. District Courts. The bill also authorizes the Courts to award fines up to \$110,000, and take other appropriate actions in violations of SCRA.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to direct injuries to a servicemember's eyes, one of the hidden injuries of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is the damage to vision done by explosions. Unfortunately, visual injuries as a result of one or more concussive injuries may not manifest for an extended time beyond the event. When combined with direct eye injuries, the number of veterans who will be seeking VA assistance with visual impairment will increase and I share Ms. JACKSON-LEE's and her cosponsor, Mr. BOOZMAN's concern that VA lacks sufficient staff who are experts in treating veterans with visual and mobility impairment. I congratulate them for the provisions that would create a scholarship program for those seeking a degree or certificate in that field.

Mr. Speaker, I have long been an advocate on behalf of VA's National Cemetery System and compassionate treatment of the heroes that are buried there and their families. I appreciate Mr. FRANK's initiative that would allow burial of a parent with a servicemember killed in combat or training for combat, as long as the burial would not displace another veteran or servicemember and it is limited to servicemembers who have no dependents.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
LENA T. HUGHES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the beloved Lena T. Hughes, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend.

Mrs. Hughes' family was the foundation and joy of her life. She was the wife of the late Patrick Gilbert Hughes, with whom she created a loving home and raised three daugh-

ters, Rose, Lynne and Mary Jo. Their mutual devotion to family was reflected in the closeness they shared with their seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hughes created a warm and inviting home for her family and friends. From never missing special events in the lives of her children and grandchildren, to preparing wonderful meals for family gatherings, her priority was always her family.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Mrs. Lena T. Hughes, whose joyous spirit and love for others will exist forever within the hearts and memories of those who knew her best—her family and friends. I extend my deepest condolences to her daughters; her son-in-law, Timothy; her seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; her sister, Anne; and to her many friends. Mrs. Hughes will be remembered always.

CELEBRATING THE SUNNYVALE
PECAN HARVEST FESTIVAL AND
HONORING PECAN QUEEN LEONA
FISCHER

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize the Sunnyvale Pecan Harvest Festival and the first ever Sunnyvale Pecan Queen.

The Sunnyvale Pecan Harvest Festival was a vision of Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce Chairman Terry Reid and has been brought to fruition through her tremendous efforts, as well as that of other Chamber members, local businesses and the Town of Sunnyvale. This festival is the first of its kind in Sunnyvale and is sure to be a popular community event for years to come.

A festival would not be complete without a Queen, and Sunnyvale has chosen a wonderful lady to serve as the first ever "Pecan Queen." Ms. Leona Fischer has been a resident of Sunnyvale for more than 40 years and continues to contribute to her community as much today as she did when she first moved there. As the director of the Douglas and Michael Kindergarten and Day School, Ms. Fischer would bring the children attending the school out to her property in Sunnyvale for camping, swimming and fishing. When she moved to Sunnyvale permanently, Ms. Fischer and her husband started antique and real estate businesses and continued to contribute to their community.

While her antique shop has since closed, Ms. Fischer can still be seen around Sunnyvale, running her real estate business. Ms. Fischer makes towns like Sunnyvale a great place to live and work, and I am proud to represent Ms. Fischer and congratulate her on this well-deserved honor.

With a Classic Custom Car and Truck show, live music performances—including a special guest appearance by Grammy winner Art Greenhaw and the awarding of the "Beth Bassett Music Achievement Award"—the baking and photo contests and the food and shopping opportunities, the First Annual Sunnyvale Pecan Harvest Festival is sure to be an outstanding event for the families of Sunnyvale.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am privileged to recognize

Terry Reid, Leona Fischer, the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce and the town of Sunnyvale for all their hard work and dedication. I wish them great success.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT
ANNIVERSARIES OF THE CZECH
REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of two U.S. allies. Twenty years ago, during the month of November 1989, the country then known as Czechoslovakia freed itself of communist control, instituted democratic elections and set out to adapt its command economy to the free market. From what many refer to as the "Velvet Revolution of 1989" or the "Gentle Revolution," Czechoslovakia peacefully became two democratic countries by mutual consent: the Czech Republic and Slovakia on January 1, 1993. The Velvet Revolution or the Gentle Revolution, if you wish, opened the way for democracy and prosperity for the people of the former Czechoslovakia.

During their brief history as independent nations, both the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic garnered worldwide respect with their admittance into the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United Nations. They have further solidified their commitment with their military units participating in NATO missions throughout the globe.

The Czech Republic has a local tie to its NATO admission with Missouri's Fifth District. The documents of admission were signed at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri. We are honored to have H.E. Peter Burian, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the U.S. and Daniel Kostoval, Deputy Chief of Mission from the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Missouri's Fifth District from November 5–7, 2009 to celebrate the birth and growth of two allied nations. Amongst their many activities with our local Czech-American and Slovak-American communities, the visiting dignitaries will lay a wreath at President Truman's grave on Friday, November 6th to commemorate their NATO affiliations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt congratulations to the Czech Republic and Slovakia for their relentless efforts in extending goodwill and democratic principles, not only within their borders, but to the global community including the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. I urge my colleagues to please join me in expressing our appreciation to two nations who continue to evolve in the democratic tradition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 832—H.R. 1168, the Veterans